

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
9 January 2017

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 61
Peacebuilding and sustaining peace****Security Council
Seventy-second year****Letter dated 5 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

I write to you to make clear the viewpoints regarding the letter dated 20 December 2016 from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on behalf of the former Secretary-General.

I want to begin with the conclusion that the letter does not answer my question on what are the legal grounds for the Security Council "sanctions resolutions" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) regarding its nuclear tests and peaceful satellite launch.

In my letters to the former Secretary-General dated 23 May (A/70/897-S/2016/465) and 5 December 2016 (A/71/672-S/2016/1042), I questioned whether there is a single article in international law that stipulates that nuclear tests and satellite and ballistic rocket launches constitute a threat to international peace and security and that serves as the legal grounds for the Security Council "sanctions resolutions" against DPRK.

However, to my regret, the Secretariat has mentioned only Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations without a single word in response to my question.

Article 39, which the Secretariat mentioned in the letter, cannot be the legal grounds for "sanctions resolutions", as was already discussed in the international law community.

In 1966, when the former Rhodesia declared independence from the British colonial regime, the Security Council adopted a sanctions resolution invoking Article 39 as its legal grounds for the first time in the history of the United Nations. In that regard, the international law community asserted that a declaration of independence was not a threat to the peace or a breach of the peace and labelled the adoption of the sanctions resolution as an act of abuse of power, and even the writers of the Charter clarified that they had drafted Article 39, referring to an act of aggression, not to be invoked for sanctions in peaceful times.



If any nuclear test or satellite or ballistic rocket launch were considered a "threat to international peace and security", the Security Council should make an issue of and enforce sanctions on the United States and other countries regarding their more than 2,000 nuclear tests and ongoing regular satellite and ballistic rocket launches.

This clearly proves that Article 39 has no relation to any nuclear tests or satellite launches.

The acts by the Security Council of fabricating an unlawful and immoral "sanction resolution", imposing a blockade and going as far as including in the list of targets of sanctions even sports rifles and bullets and bows and arrows are nothing but an act against humanity and civilization, severely threatening the right to life of our people and destroying modern civilization, as well as making the whole world turn back to the medieval dark ages.

The hydrogen bomb test, nuclear warhead test and test firing of various means of strike, including intercontinental ballistic rockets, are all the full exercise of the legitimate right, as stipulated in the Charter, to self-defensive measures for deterrent power that can wipe out the source of provocation in case of the encroachment upon our sovereignty and right to survival by hostile forces.

As long as the United States and its followers keep up nuclear threats and blackmail, and as long as they do not stop their war games at our doorstep, disguising them as annual events, our self-defensive capabilities and the capability for a pre-emptive strike with nuclear armed forces as their pivot will be bolstered significantly.

I hope that the Secretariat will discharge its responsibility before the international community by considering the questions regarding the legal grounds for the "sanctions resolutions" against DPRK with deep thought and by responding with impartial answers to them in conformity with the mission of the United Nations for international peace and security as its primary one.

Furthermore, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ja Song Nam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
to the United Nations



Security Council

Distr.: General
5 January 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 5 January 2017 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I am hereby transmitting to you a letter dated 30 December 2016 from the Chair, for the period ending 31 December 2016, of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), based on the Working Group's conclusions, adopted on 14 December 2016 (S/AC.51/2016/3) (see annex).

(Signed) Olof Skoog
President of the Security Council



Annex

At its 58th formal meeting, on 17 May 2016, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic (S/2016/133), covering the period from January 2011 to December 2015. At its 60th formal meeting, on 14 December 2016, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic (S/AC.51/2016/3).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014) and 2255 (2015), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, to:

(a) Request you to ensure that the country task force on monitoring and reporting in the Central African Republic and other relevant United Nations agencies continue their engagement and support to the Government of the Central African Republic to address violations and abuses against children in armed conflict;

(b) Request you to ensure that the country task force on monitoring and reporting continues its engagement with parties to conflict, in line with resolution 1612 (2005), to advocate the release and reintegration of children and facilitate the adoption of action plans to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, and to encourage the country task force to continue its ongoing dialogue on the adoption of action plans with Unité du peuple centrafricain (UPC), Rassemblement patriotique pour le renouveau de la Centrafrique (RPRC) and Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) factions of the ex-Séléka;

(c) Request you to continue ensuring the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic and of the child protection component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), including by ensuring that sufficient child protection capacities are allocated to the Mission;

(d) Welcome the directive issued by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Central African Republic to the MINUSCA Force Commander and the Police Commissioner prohibiting the use of schools during the conduct of their activities and calling for the full implementation of the directive;

(e) Express deep concern over the continuing and serious allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers in MINUSCA and by non-United Nations forces and request you to ensure the implementation of resolution 2272 (2016) and the full implementation of the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse;

(f) Request you to ensure that the matter of children and armed conflict is included as a specific element in all country-specific reports on the Central African Republic;

(g) Request you to disseminate the present document to the relevant entities within the United Nations system.

(Signed) Ramlan Bin **Ibrahim**
Chair
Working Group
on Children and Armed Conflict

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
9 January 2017
English
Original: Arabic

**Identical letters dated 5 January 2017 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab
Republic to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following information:

The armed terrorist groups that some refer to as "moderate" proved unwilling to bid farewell to the old year without carrying out one more horrific crime. On 24 December 2016, the terrorist Nusrah Front and its criminal gangs positioned in the Wadi Barada and Fijah areas of Rif Dimashq blew up the principal water main connecting the Fijah spring to Damascus. Not content with that action, the terrorists polluted the water and the pipe using fuel oil and other hazardous substances. The pipe was thus put out of use, and the city of Damascus was deprived of 80 per cent of its water, particularly its drinking water. The situation has caused considerable damage and suffering which, if they continue, could cause a humanitarian disaster for the over 7 million inhabitants of Damascus, particularly women, children and other vulnerable groups. Food, health and hygiene standards would deteriorate markedly.

Mindful of its patriotic duty, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has mobilized its full capacities to use reserve wells, distribute water to civilians and find alternative ways to provide the basic needs of the inhabitants of Damascus. It is also monitoring the water's quality and suitability for drinking and human use.

The Nusrah Front, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and associated groups have been carrying out criminal acts with support from certain Western Members of the Security Council, particularly France, Britain and the United States of America, and their regional proxies such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey. Those acts underscore the true criminal nature of the groups, which the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has fought relentlessly. The Syrian Government emphasizes that cutting off civilians' access to water amounts to a war crime and a crime against humanity. Such actions are part of a series of crimes and violations of internal law committed by armed terrorist groups in the major Syrian cities, particularly Damascus and Aleppo. The latter was denied water when the eastern neighbourhoods were under terrorist control. That measure was suggested by the regimes and governments that support and direct the



terrorist organizations, to which they refer using such terms as "moderate armed opposition". Such names show contempt and disdain for global public opinion. They are misplaced, insulting and inconsistent with the provisions of international law.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regrets the silence of the international community and the reticence and hypocrisy of those States that claim to show concern for the rights of Syrian civilians and feel pity at their plight. Certain international governmental and non-governmental organizations have also failed to condemn this heinous crime, which has taken place before their very eyes, with the knowledge and at the behest of certain sponsors of terrorism. The Syrian Government also stresses that unjustified endeavours from within and beyond the United Nations to secure resolutions in support of terrorists and their organizations do nothing to resolve the Syrian crisis, and can only make it worse. Syria hopes that those organizations and governments will come to their senses in the new year by holding to account the parties that are supporting and encouraging the terrorist organizations and, in so doing, have thus helped to kill innocent civilians, destroyed infrastructure in Syria and, far from suppressing or eradicating terrorism, have promoted it and invested in it.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council and the Member States of the United Nations to condemn these terrorist crimes, which brazenly target civilians; take the necessary action to support the Syrian Government in its endeavour to restore water services to Damascus city; and do everything it takes to prevent and punish the regimes and States that support and fund terrorism in Syria, and those entities that have cut off water supply as a collective punishment against millions of Syrian civilians, first in Aleppo, Dar'a and other cities and now in Damascus. Syria insists that the Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism and terrorist financing, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), must be enforced.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mounzer Mounzer
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
6 January 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Security Council
Seventy-second year

**Identical letters dated 5 January 2017 from the Permanent
Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly
and the President of the Security Council**

As a new year has begun, the Palestinian people living under Israel's nearly 50-year-old military occupation continue to face an unrelenting barrage of oppressive, illegal and destructive measures by Israel, the occupying Power.

Sadly, for the Palestinian people, 2016 ended the same way that 2017 began in that not for a minute has the occupying Power ceased its illegal policies and measures in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Despite the repeated appeals and calls of the international community, including the recent adoption of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), Israel continues with its violations against the Palestinian people and their land with total disregard for the law and without fear of consequences. In fact, the current Israeli right-wing Government under the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu seems to be interested only in causing more suffering for the Palestinian people, entrenching its occupation and destroying the contiguity and viability of the Palestinian land along with the prospects for realizing the two-State solution for peace.

This is evidenced in the deteriorating situation in the West Bank, where Israel's settlement colonization activities and land grab have continued unabated, including the forced displacement of thousands more Palestinians, including Bedouin families, particularly in the areas of Occupied East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley, the confiscation of huge tracts of land and the destruction of hundreds more Palestinian homes and properties to facilitate the expansion of Israeli settlements and the wall. It is also evidenced in the continuing detention, arrest, imprisonment and torture of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, and the unrelenting violence and provocations by extremist Israeli settlers. The situation in the Gaza Strip is also intolerable as the imposition of a nearly 10-year crippling, dehumanizing and illegal blockade of nearly 2 million Palestinians



continues to subject the Palestinian population there to collective punishment, in contravention of international human rights and humanitarian law.

As it is impossible to document every single Israeli crime against the Palestinian people, we will continue to document them as best as we can in our letters in our determined pursuit of accountability. In this regard, I have included in an annex to the present letter a brief review of the grave breaches perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in addition to those crimes included in our letters sent in December 2016, to be included in this ongoing criminal record.

We continue to call on Member States of the United Nations to redouble their efforts, individually and collectively, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and consistent with the relevant United Nations resolutions, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all of its violations. After almost 50 years of occupation and nearly 70 years since Al-Nakba, we will not relent in our calls and efforts for the upholding of international law and the fulfilment of our inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to independence in our State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

With its adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), we look to the Security Council to continue to call for compliance with the law and finally compel the occupying Power to end all its violations against our people in order to tangibly contribute to the de-escalation of tensions and a reversal of the destructive trends on the ground with the aim of saving the two-State solution and the prospects for peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our 600 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 December 2016 (A/ES-10/737-S/2016/1132) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 5 January 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

21 December 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 26 Palestinians, including 7 minors, in military raids across the occupied West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished a 55-square-metre room, which had been built six months ago in the Al-Thawri area of the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan, under the bogus pretext of lacking a building permit.

22 December 2016

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Ahmad Al-Kharroubi (age 19) in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Kafr Aqab when the occupying forces raided the area to carry out an illegal punitive home demolition.
- Three Palestinian teenagers, Yazan Nabih Deiriyeh (age 16), Mohammad Ayman Taqatqa (age 16) and Ibrahim Jibril Taqatqa (age 16), currently held at Israel's so-called "Etzion" detention center, were beaten by occupying forces during their military raid and arrest campaign.

According to the Palestinian prisoners rights group Addameer, 400 Palestinian minors have been detained by Israel since October 2015, many of whom the group said have been beaten, threatened, sexually assaulted and placed in solitary confinement during their interrogation and detention.

- An Israeli settler attempted to run over two Palestinian children, Ahmad Saber Zamel Abu Maria (age 11) and his sister Ritaj (age 17), in his vehicle while they were on their way to school in the Beita Zaata area of Beit Ummar in the southern part of Hebron.
- Israeli occupying forces carried out multiple military raids across the occupied West Bank before dawn, detaining at least 12 Palestinians, including a Palestinian who had been previously imprisoned by Israel.

23 December 2016

- A Palestinian child, Fares Ziad Al-Bayed (age 16) succumbed to his wounds after being shot in the head by Israeli occupying forces on 15 October in the Al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah.

27 December 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians during overnight military raids across the occupied West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished an agricultural water tank and structure in the town of Idhna, south of Al-Khalil, under the bogus pretext that they lacked building permits.

28 December 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 10 Palestinians from the West Bank in overnight military raids.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished Palestinian-owned structures in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan under the bogus pretext that they lacked building permits.

30 December 2016

- A Palestinian woman, Jihan Mohammad Hashimeh (age 35), from the neighbourhood of Al-Issawiya in occupied East Jerusalem, was injured as a result of being shot by Israeli occupying forces at the Qalandiya illegal checkpoint between Ramallah and East Jerusalem. Witnesses said that the occupying forces opened fire on the woman, who was walking towards the vehicle lane at the checkpoint. Locals said that Hashimeh was ill and that she was on her way to East Jerusalem for medical treatment when she entered the vehicle lane by mistake.

1 January 2017

- Israeli settlers attempted to establish a new illegal outpost on private Palestinian land in Nablus. Abd Al-Karim Hussein, the mayor of Azmut, north-east of Nablus, said that Israeli settlers had brought mobile homes to the Ras Al-Ein area in the eastern suburbs of Azmut, and highlighted that the new outpost was located just a few hundred metres away from the illegal "Elon Moreh" settlement.

2 January 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained eight Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem, including five children ranging between 15 and 17 years of age, and also detained three Palestinians in Al-Khalil, including two Palestinians previously imprisoned by Israel.
- Israeli bulldozers demolished 10 dwellings housing Bedouins in the Khan al-Ahmar area east of East Jerusalem under the bogus pretext that they were built without a permit. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported that Israeli demolitions reached a record number in 2016, displacing almost 1,600 Palestinians and affecting the livelihoods of more than 7,000 people.

3 January 2017

- Israeli occupying forces demolished at least 13 residential structures, including a school, in the Bedouin village of Khirbet Tana in the northern Jordan Valley. The school was built with funding from the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the repeated waves of demolition carried out by the occupying Power make it extremely difficult for Khirbet Tana residents to live in stability, to sustain

their livelihood, or, given the repeated demolition of the village school, to educate their children.

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 36 Palestinians, including minors, as well as Palestinians who had been imprisoned previously by Israeli occupying forces, during a wide-scale raid, search and arrest campaign in several West Bank cities and villages.

4 January 2017

- The occupying forces demolished a Palestinian-owned house in the Al-Ashraqiya area of Beit Hanina, a neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem, under the bogus pretext that it had been built without a permit.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished wells built to collect rainwater in the village of Taqou, east of Bethlehem.
- Israeli occupying forces razed lands in the Al-Mreij area, located at the western entrance of Kafr el-Dik in Salfit.
- A 39-year-old woman from Al-Khalil, Bayan Aqel, and her daughter, Fatima, were among 31 Palestinians whom the Israeli occupying forces detained during overnight wide-scale military raids throughout the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
9 January 2017
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 5 January 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you with regard to the summary statement of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration, as contained in document S/2017/10, dated 3 January 2017.

In accordance with the established procedure, I should like to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Cuba requests that the following four matters brought to the Council's attention by the Republic of Cuba should remain on the list of matters of which the Security Council is currently seized:

- Letter dated 11 July 1960 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4378)
- Letter dated 31 December 1960 from the Minister for External Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4605)
- Complaint by Cuba (S/10993)
- Letter dated 2 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/21120).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ana Silvia **Rodríguez Abascal**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.





Security Council

Distr.: General
3 January 2017

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 31 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations stating that Mr. Matthew Thome has been appointed alternate representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.





Security Council

Distr.: General
6 January 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 5 January 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request that the item entitled "Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council" (S/10409) relating to the question of the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, be retained on the list of items of which the Security Council is seized for the year 2017 and until such time as the dispute is resolved by peaceful means through direct negotiations or through the International Court of Justice, thereby ensuring a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the issue and achieving peace, security and regional and international stability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamal Jama Al Musharakh
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.





Security Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 6 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the summary statement by the Secretary-General of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration (S/2017/10), dated 3 January 2017, and wish to request that item 62, entitled "The situation between Iran and Iraq", be retained on the agenda of the Council.

(Signed) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-00262 (E) 100117



Please recycle 



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
6 January 2017

Original: English

**Letter dated 6 January 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed
to the President of the Security Council**

Permit me to express my Government's highest appreciation to Sweden for its outstanding leadership of the Security Council and its tireless efforts to ensure a world free of conflicts. This commitment to peace has been exemplified in the choice of the theme of the high-level open debate, namely, "Conflict prevention and sustaining peace", that will be held under your stewardship on 10 January 2017. We thank our Swedish colleagues for this most relevant initiative and are pleased to inform that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kairat Abdrakhmanov, will participate in the open debate.

I also have the honour to submit to the Security Council a text of the policy address by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, entitled "Kazakhstan's concept and vision for sustaining global partnerships for a secure, just and prosperous world" (see annex). The policy address portrays a momentous stand on achieving a conflict-free world. It also outlines the political priorities of Kazakhstan as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2017-2018.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Barlybay Sadykov
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 6 January 2017 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the
United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: English and Russian]

**Policy address to the Security Council by the President of the
Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, entitled
"Kazakhstan's concept and vision for sustaining global
partnerships for a secure, just and prosperous world" on the
occasion of the start of Kazakhstan's non-permanent membership
of the Security Council for 2017-2018**

The Republic of Kazakhstan began its duties as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council on 1 January 2017, for the next two years.

Kazakhstan is grateful to all States Members of the United Nations that supported its candidature. We consider our election to the Security Council as a great responsibility and evidence of the international community's trust in our commitment to peace. We also view it as recognition of our efforts to strengthen the role of the United Nations in maintaining global peace and security.

We welcome the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, who commenced his tenure on 1 January 2017. Kazakhstan fully shares and supports his vision, priorities and noble efforts, which are fully in accordance with the ideals and principles that Kazakhstan will champion on the Council.

2 March 2017 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Republic of Kazakhstan's membership of the United Nations.

Over the last quarter of a century, our country has demonstrated its total steadfastness to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the norms and principles of international law.

Kazakhstan will work in a balanced and unbiased manner regarding all agenda items addressed by the Council, keeping in mind the paramount importance of maintaining and strengthening peace and security. We intend to work on an equal basis with all Security Council members to promote compromise and consensus in order to help achieve these goals.

We will make every effort to restore and develop cooperation among all States Members of the United Nations, with a particular focus on strengthening trust among the permanent members of the Council.

Our country will strive for meaningful cooperation with the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat and the relevant departments, to achieve the Council's agenda.

We will seek to strengthen the understanding of Security Council members on the importance of creating a renewed model of international relations that accurately reflects the realities of the twenty-first century and shapes a collective responsibility for meeting global and regional challenges.

Based on such guiding principles, Kazakhstan will work over the next two years on the following priorities.

First, having closed down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and been the first country to give up its nuclear arsenal twenty-five years ago, Kazakhstan's prime goal is to help ensure humankind's survival through a world free of nuclear weapons.

We will continue consolidating global efforts to free the planet from nuclear arms by strengthening and expanding the non-proliferation regime, and through strict compliance with Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

While welcoming the agreements reached on Iran's nuclear programme and encouraging their implementation, Kazakhstan also believes they provide a model for use in similar situations and crises. We stand ready to actively cooperate with the Council's Facilitator on Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

In this context, Kazakhstan sees as important the need to find an urgent and constructive solution to the issue of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula and proposes an immediate resumption of multilateral talks on the matter.

Kazakhstan calls on all Member States, especially the Security Council's permanent members, to set a goal of ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the one hundredth anniversary of the United Nations in 2045.

Second, Kazakhstan's efforts in the Security Council will be aimed at creating conditions to eliminate the threat of a global war by preventing and ending military confrontations at the regional and global levels.

We are convinced that peace and the renunciation of war as a means of settling inter-State problems are essential to the survival of humankind. In this context, Kazakhstan intends to promote the implementation of my Manifesto, "The World. The 21st Century", which sets out how we can provide the conditions to end conflicts and violence.

Kazakhstan calls for further improvements in the United Nations peacekeeping system and intends to make its own contribution by increasing the number of its military observers and peacekeepers deployed to United Nations missions.

During our time on the Council, we will work towards the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation and conflicts in the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Commonwealth of Independent States. We also intend to strive for the de-escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula and crisis resolution in Africa and Asia.

Third, Kazakhstan is the first Central Asian State elected to the United Nations Security Council.

We intend to use our membership to promote the interests of all countries of our region to ensure its stability and security, to effectively respond to regional challenges and threats, to strengthen cooperation and promote its growth and development.

We are convinced that a model for a regional zone of peace, security, cooperation and development can be generated and tested in Central Asia, based on respect and balancing the interests of all stakeholders.

During our presidency of the Council, we intend to initiate broad, balanced, meaningful and result-oriented discussions on the situation in Afghanistan and how to promote peace, security and development in Central Asia. We will also strive for the adoption of a special outcome document from those deliberations.

We want to see, as speedily as possible, Afghanistan's return to peace and stability, and believe that broad assistance must be given to help the country in its economic and social development, in its efforts to counter threats to its security, and to strengthen capacity-building. We are ready to work tirelessly as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) Committee concerning Afghanistan and the Taliban.

Fourth, international terrorism and violent extremism are today some of the main and acute challenges to global peace and security. Crises in many regions of the world are caused primarily by the activities of international terrorist groups. It is only with the combined efforts of all States, international and regional organizations and other key stakeholders that we can put an end to this scourge. To achieve this requires, above all, that the dialogue between political and religious leaders be intensified to help counter violent extremism and radicalism.

Kazakhstan will chair the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida and associated individuals, group and undertaking and entities, to help achieve these goals.

In this context, we plan to invite States Members of the United Nations and the Security Council to develop the Astana Code of Conduct for International Anti-Terrorist Operations. We believe this can serve as the basis for the formation of a global counter-terrorism coalition (network) under the auspices of the United Nations, which I proposed in my statement at the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Fifth, sustainable global peace will not be possible without comprehensive peace and security in Africa.

As an Observer State of the African Union and Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, Kazakhstan will contribute to international efforts for national reconciliation and restoration of peace in the region of the Horn of Africa, and also across the continent as a whole.

Sixth, we are convinced that long-term stability and sustainable peace can only be achieved by understanding the strong connection between peace, security and development. This security-development nexus should be based on global action to prevent wars and conflicts, protect human rights, deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and combat climate change, including through the implementation of commitments by all States parties to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Kazakhstan is determined to continue contributing to sustainable development. The practical steps we are taking include hosting EXPO-2017 on the theme "Energy of the Future" in Astana this summer. Our aim is to help promote sustainable energy and minimize the consequences of climate change, which are both important components of preventive diplomacy.

Seventh, over the next two years, Kazakhstan will support efforts to improve and adapt the Security Council and the entire United Nations system to be better equipped to overcome contemporary challenges and threats to humankind, and to increase the leadership role of the United Nations in global affairs.

The United Nations, and the other global structures of the post-war period, must meet the needs of the twenty-first century.

Kazakhstan will work to enhance cooperation among all collective security regional organizations of Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa.

To consolidate efforts and provide the collective political will to enhance global and regional security and stability, and to strengthen trust among States, we propose to convene every year, or every two years, a Security Council meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government.

The objectives and tasks set out in this policy address outline the political priorities and practical components for Kazakhstan's non-permanent membership of the Security Council in 2017-2018.

Kazakhstan is determined to work in the Council with all Members States on these priorities, without political expediency, and in an open, objective, balanced, responsible and constructive way.

Kazakhstan counts on the support of partners for its initiatives, which have the important goal of making the world in the twenty-first century a secure, just and prosperous one.

Astana, 1 January 2017

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
9 January 2017

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus**I. Introduction**

1. The present report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) covers developments from 25 June 2016 to 15 December 2016 and brings up to date, since the issuance of my report dated 8 July 2016 (S/2016/598), the record of activities carried out by UNFICYP pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 2300 (2016).

2. As at 15 December 2016, the strength of the military component stood at 883 (56 women) for all ranks, and the strength of the police component stood at 67 (17 women) (see annex).

II. Significant political developments

3. During the reporting period, negotiations between the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mustafa Akıncı, continued in a sustained and results-oriented manner. The leaders maintained a regular and often intense schedule of meetings, while negotiators and experts also continued to meet regularly.

4. Through their intensive work in this leader-led process, Mr. Akıncı and Mr. Anastasiades succeeded in taking the talks further than they have ever been since 2008, achieving major progress in four of the six negotiation chapters: governance and power-sharing; property; the economy; and matters relating to the European Union. They also, for the first time, conducted negotiations on the issue of territory, held in Mont Pèlerin, Switzerland, which I opened on 7 November 2016.

5. Following two rounds of meetings in those negotiations, the leaders announced in a statement issued by the United Nations on 1 December that they would meet in Geneva from 9 to 11 January 2017. They also announced that a conference on Cyprus would be convened on 12 January in Geneva with the added participation of the guarantor Powers — Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They further stated that other relevant parties would be invited as needed.



III. Activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

6. UNFICYP is intended first and foremost to prevent a recurrence of fighting and to contribute to the maintenance of law and order and a return to normal conditions. Its mandate requires reconciling security considerations and the maintenance of the military status quo with allowing Cypriots who live and work in the buffer zone to pursue civilian activities and enjoy full and productive lives. Such an approach, when successful, builds confidence between communities and contributes to the overall effort by the United Nations in support of the peace process.

A. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and maintenance of the military status quo

7. The integrity and stability of the buffer zone were maintained during the reporting period. UNFICYP liaison between the opposing forces was particularly important in preventing any escalation of low-level disputes.

8. Throughout this time, however, UNFICYP sought to address challenges to its authority in the buffer zone. The opposing forces' continued non-recognition of the 1989 aide-memoire and lack of agreement concerning the exact delineation of the ceasefire lines complicated the Force's efforts to fulfil its mandate. Construction by both sides is seen by UNFICYP as conferring a military advantage and therefore as a violation. Such construction continued to cause concern, in particular when not accompanied by prompt deconstruction of the old infrastructure.

9. The prevalence of closed-circuit television equipment at positions that remain guarded continued to be a concern. It is the Force's view that such installations confer a military advantage. In addition, military positions violating the status quo and established by both forces inside the buffer zone, in particular at Strovilia, remain in place and are classified as permanent violations. The United Nations continues to hold the Government of Turkey responsible for the status quo in Varosha.

B. Demining activity

10. During the reporting period, UNFICYP integrated a mine-clearance capacity from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) into the mission to focus on the five areas in the north that had been identified in 2015 as Suspected as Hazardous Areas, and to provide support to the Committee on Missing Persons to protect its staff from possible risks from explosive remnants of war. Since 22 August, a total of 21,757 square metres of land in four locations has been cleared and released through manual and mechanical mine clearance, and in the process seven anti-tank mines have been removed and destroyed.

11. Despite assurances by the Turkish Cypriot security forces, no progress was registered in the clearance of the minefield just north of the buffer zone in Mammari, where heavy rains led to mine-washes into the buffer zone in 2014 and

2015, nor was progress made in clearing the four known remaining minefields in the buffer zone, of which three belong to the National Guard and one to the Turkish forces. While the Turkish Cypriot side has indicated that it would accept the clearance of all four areas as a package, the Greek Cypriot side maintains the position that its three minefields are required to counter a perceived threat. Efforts continue at all levels to advance a more comprehensive approach to demining, both inside and beyond the buffer zone.

C. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

12. Relations between UNFICYP police and the respective police forces remained collaborative and constructive at all levels, with daily communications to enhance cooperation and address operational matters within the buffer zone. In parallel to that liaison, UNFICYP police facilitated the work of the Joint Communications Room and the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters. During the reporting period, the Joint Communications Room exchanged 83 communications on criminal matters with an intercommunal dimension.

13. From 24 June to the end of November, 805,269 official crossings of the buffer zone were recorded. The role of UNFICYP with regard to all interactions at, around or through crossing points is expected to expand with the planned opening in 2017 of two crossings, at Deryniea/Derinya and Lefka-Aplici/Lefke-Apliç, per the agreement reached in the Technical Committee on Crossings. Throughout the reporting period, UNFICYP police continued to provide escorts for convoys of civilians and supplies at the Limnitis/Yeşilirmak crossing point, in accordance with the agreement reached by the leaders in October 2010.

14. In early November, UNFICYP escorted police from both sides into the bicommunal village of Pyla to conduct simultaneous searches of eight casinos that had been operating illegally for several years. As a result, the eight casinos were closed, and 2 Turkish Cypriots, 33 Greek Cypriots and 9 foreign nationals were charged. The two mukhtars of Pyla and the residents themselves expressed their relief and appreciation for this outcome. UNFICYP commended both sides for their careful work in tackling crime, thereby reducing the risk to the residents of Pyla.

15. No incidents were reported in November 2016 in connection with the Greek Cypriot demonstrations on the anniversary of the 1983 unilateral declaration of independence, in contrast to the events in November 2015, during which two vehicles belonging to Turkish Cypriots were targeted by Greek Cypriot youths throwing stones. No information was made available during the reporting period regarding the status of the judicial proceedings against 25 students who were charged with various offences related to those events.

16. The Force continued to confront unauthorized activity in the buffer zone and aggressive behaviour by those engaged in such unauthorized activities. Hunting was of particular concern, as armed hunters who are often in fatigues can be mistaken for military personnel. UNFICYP intensified joint patrolling with game wardens and liaison with local authorities to address the 54 hunting-related incidents in the buffer zone by Greek Cypriot hunters during the reporting period. In one incident in November, hunters fired in the direction of unarmed peacekeepers. As at

13 December, charges had been brought against three suspects in relation to those events.

17. In an effort to support a return to normal conditions, UNFICYP continued to engage with the authorities, local community representatives and civilians to facilitate the implementation of civilian activities inside the buffer zone. In accordance with established procedures, UNFICYP allowed farming, grazing and construction activities, provided those activities did not compromise safety and security in the area. More than 719 permits for civilian activities were issued during the reporting period, and all 12 applications for civilian construction projects in the buffer zone were approved. Unauthorized farming, however, continued to be problematic and a source of tension. The university in Pyla continued to operate without UNFICYP authorization.

18. During the reporting period, the number of intercommunal civil society initiatives in support of the settlement talks increased considerably, often assisted by UNFICYP within the buffer zone. The Mission facilitated the participation of more than 3,000 Cypriots from both communities in more than 50 sporting, cultural, educational and other civil society events. In addition, UNFICYP facilitated 93 intercommunal gatherings at the Ledra Palace Hotel, with more than 2,300 participants. In September, UNFICYP opened the buffer zone for more than 500 Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot trade union members to mark together the International Day of Peace. In October, for the third consecutive year, the International Cyprus Car Rally, including 43 Greek Cypriot and 11 Turkish Cypriot drivers, crossed the respective ceasefire lines below the Venetian walls of old town Nicosia. In November, during the second meeting of the leaders in Mont Pèlerin, Switzerland, more than 2,000 Cypriots and 120 organizations from both communities participated in a bicomunal celebration and concert in support of the settlement talks.

19. The Cyprus Women's Lobby held a conference on 4 November in which my Special Representative participated and at which activists from civil society, government and the international community discussed the role of women in promoting peace and security. The conference focused on promoting the role of women in the peace and security agenda, including within the Cyprus context, and touched on issues of relevance to a future solution of the Cypriot question, including education, human security and the role of women.

20. UNFICYP also facilitated three meetings of political party representatives under the auspices of the embassy of Slovakia. On 26 October, the political parties issued a joint press release calling on the Technical Committee on Education to move forward with confidence-building measures.

21. Intercommunal activity in the village of Pyla, the only mixed village in the buffer zone, continued to strengthen. From 13 to 15 August, more than 700 people participated in cultural performances at an intercommunal festival in the village. On 12 November, 130 Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot residents joined in a visit to Paphos facilitated by UNFICYP. Another such visit took place on 3 December, to the Apostolos Andreas monastery in the Karpas Peninsula.

22. Progress in the implementation of confidence-building measures, as agreed by the leaders in 2015, has been mixed during the reporting period. Further to the

agreement reached in the Technical Committee on Crossings, work commenced to facilitate the opening of two crossings, in Derynia/Derinya and Lefka-Aplici/Lefke-Apliç. Work remains to be done on the interconnectivity of electricity grids and the interoperability of mobile telephones.

23. UNFICYP continued to facilitate the work of eight intercommunal technical committees established in the framework of the talks. The Technical Committee on Crisis Management finalized a proposal to establish a cooperation mechanism to address potential natural disasters or humanitarian crises. The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, acting with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union, has now completed 14 projects, notably the restoration of the main church complex of the Apostolos Andreas monastery, funded by the Church of Cyprus and the Evkaf Administration and finished in November 2016.

24. With a view to fostering opportunities for interaction between the communities as well as freedom of worship, UNFICYP facilitated 44 requests for religious services and commemorative events involving more than 10,000 individuals, which were either conducted in the buffer zone or required crossings to the north. In addition to those events, UNFICYP facilitated the crossing to the south of nearly 1,700 pilgrims to the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque, in Larnaca, on 7 July and 15 September.

25. In May 2016, the Turkish Cypriot authorities announced criteria and procedures to be applied regarding requests for religious services in the north. During the reporting period, the Turkish Cypriot authorities approved 35 of 72 requests for services submitted to UNFICYP for facilitation, compared to 44 of 73 requests during the same period in 2015. None of 20 requests submitted to UNFICYP for facilitation for worship at sites inaccessible since 1974 was approved during the period, compared to the opening of nine new sites for worship during the same period in 2015.

26. The religious leaders of Cyprus continued to demonstrate their commitment to joint dialogue and the promotion of religious freedom, supported by the Embassy of Sweden. The visit on 7 July to Hala Sultan Tekke to celebrate the feast of Bayram included, for the first time, Greek Orthodox, Muslim, Maronite, Armenian Orthodox and Latin Catholic representatives. On 9 December, the religious leaders launched a joint appeal via video message to encourage all those with information on the missing to come forward and support the work of the Committee on Missing Persons. On 30 November, the name day of Apostolos Andreas and the first day the monastery was open to the public, approximately 2,000 people attended a service and visited the monastery throughout the day with the support of UNDP and UNFICYP.

27. The Force continued to deliver humanitarian assistance to 329 Greek Cypriots and 103 Maronites residing in the north and facilitated the post-mortem transfer of two Greek Cypriots for burial in the north. The Force also twice visited the Greek Cypriot primary and secondary schools in the Karpas Peninsula. The Turkish Cypriot authorities rejected 6 of the 117 textbooks that were proposed for use at the schools by the Greek Cypriots. The Turkish Cypriot authorities also rejected three of nine teachers nominated to work at the schools in the Karpas and denied the

reappointment of two teachers who had previously worked in those schools. While no Greek-speaking doctors were approved to attend to the health needs of elderly Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the north, a Greek Cypriot nurse continued to provide services at a local clinic on the Karpas peninsula.

28. No issues were identified as a result of the Force's continued engagement with the relevant authorities in Larnaca and Limassol regarding access to health, welfare and educational services for Turkish Cypriots living in the south. While Turkish-speaking pupils continued to have access to Turkish language education at a high school and primary school, there were no developments regarding the establishment of a Turkish language school in Limassol.

29. UNFICYP conducted visits to 12 Turkish Cypriots held in Greek Cypriot detention facilities and attended one related court hearing to monitor and assist in addressing any legal and humanitarian issues faced by them. There were no Greek Cypriots detained in Turkish Cypriot detention facilities during the reporting period.

IV. Committee on Missing Persons

30. As at 15 December, the bicomunal team of archaeologists of the Committee on Missing Persons had exhumed the remains on both sides of the island of 1,192 of 2,001 individuals on the official list of missing persons. To date, the remains of 740 individuals have been identified and returned to their respective families, including, during the reporting period, those of 115 individuals. In line with the permission received in November 2015, the Committee conducted, in 2016, 10 excavations in military areas in the north, leading to the recovery of the remains of nine individuals. Throughout the reporting period, the Committee continued its cooperation with UNFICYP and UNMAS experts on the mitigation of risks posed by unexploded ordnance and the use of detection technologies by Committee field teams.

31. On 28 July, following two years of discussions, members of the Committee on Missing Persons signed an agreement to initiate research into the archives of security forces and international organizations present in Cyprus during the periods of 1963 to 1964 and 1974 with the aim of locating information on additional burial sites of missing persons. To that end, the Committee on Missing Persons commenced work on creating a dedicated archival research unit. During the reporting period, the Committee published a book documenting its work, entitled "Beneath the carob trees: the lost lives of Cyprus". The Committee also organized high-level photo exhibitions in New York, Brussels and Geneva with the aim of securing continued financial and political support.

V. Transition planning

32. UNFICYP continued to work on planning for transition in relation to a settlement, as requested by the Security Council, establishing a joint working group with my good offices mission and the support of relevant Headquarters departments. On 22 July, UNFICYP briefed the leaders on initial transition planning. In early November, the negotiators returned to such matters, in the presence of my Special

Adviser and my Special Representative, and agreed in principle that the United Nations would focus on several key areas of support in a post-settlement period. Further discussion with the negotiators took place on 15 December.

33. The transition planning undertaken during the past year has demonstrated the extent to which the United Nations capabilities on the island will need to change in order to effectively support the implementation of an agreement and assist the sides with the challenges of a post-settlement period. Defining these new capabilities will depend on further progress in the talks on key outstanding issues and will require thorough engagement with the sides on their expectations for the future United Nations role. It should be noted, however, that with current resources and in its present configuration, UNFICYP has limited ability to deliver appropriate support to a settlement. Moreover, such planning is but one aspect of a much broader need for preparations for the implementation of a settlement that is the responsibility of the sides.

VI. Conduct and discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse

34. During the reporting period, three category 2 allegations were reported and referred for investigation. There were no reports of category 1 allegations, including allegations of sexual exploitation or abuse.

35. The Mission's training programme on conduct and discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse exceeded planned outputs, with a total of 20 training sessions conducted during the reporting period. These involved 1,003 mission participants, including 799 military personnel, 23 United Nations police personnel, 167 civilian personnel and 14 UNMAS personnel. As part of the Force's awareness-raising activities on sexual exploitation and abuse, a human trafficking awareness training session was conducted on 29 July 2016, with the participation of personnel from UNFICYP, the Office of the Special Adviser, the Office of the Committee on Missing Persons and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

VII. Financial and administrative aspects

36. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/273, appropriated the amount of \$57.8 million gross for the maintenance of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, inclusive of the voluntary contribution of one third of the net cost of the Force, equivalent to \$18.4 million from the Government of Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of \$6.5 million from the Government of Greece.

37. As at 19 December 2016, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus amounted to \$13.8 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$2,024.1 million.

38. Reimbursement of troop costs was made for the period up to 31 October 2016, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for

the period up to 30 September 2016, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VIII. Observations

39. Unprecedented progress has been made in the leader-led negotiation process over the past 19 months. I commend Mr. Akinci and Mr. Anastasiades for their efforts. Through their vision, courage and leadership, they have advanced the talks in a definitive manner. At the same time, a number of delicate and important issues remain. The process has now reached a critical juncture, and I encourage the leaders to build on the momentum as they embark on the most crucial and perhaps most demanding part of their common journey. I also encourage all Cypriots to support the leaders as they move into the decisive weeks ahead, in pursuit of the common goal of reaching a comprehensive settlement as soon as possible. As the talks enter a pivotal stage, it is more important than ever that the guarantor Powers, Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and other relevant actors remain committed to supporting the ongoing and determined efforts of the leaders.

40. The growing efforts demonstrated by citizens' groups in Cyprus to build support for the settlement talks and reunification are also to be commended. As the leaders progress in their negotiations, I encourage them to fully engage civil society throughout Cyprus with a view to fostering broad grass-roots support for a solution. Women's groups have been an important part of civil society's efforts to support the talks, including their call for incorporating a gender dimension into the peace process in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). I encourage the leaders to redouble their efforts to fully reflect the principles and aims of resolution 1325 on women and peace and security in their continuing deliberations.

41. The United Nations remains committed to supporting the vital humanitarian work being carried out on behalf of the families of victims through the Committee on Missing Persons. In the light of the advanced age of both relatives and witnesses, it is critical that the Committee be given the means and the information required to accelerate its work. In that respect, I am heartened to see that the resources of the Committee have been enhanced during this reporting period. This additional capacity is a particularly important effort in the light of the advanced age of many of the witnesses and relatives. The Committee's efforts to heal the wounds of the past not only are critical for those families directly affected by the tragedy of the missing, but also support the broader process of reconciliation between communities.

42. Progress relating to confidence-building measures will remain important in the period ahead. The opening of the two crossing points, in particular, will lead to major improvements in the lives of affected communities. While the progress made towards the safety of Cypriots via the clearance of five minefields in the north is welcome, much more remains to be done. The lack of action on the clearance of the minefield adjacent to the ceasefire line near Mammari, for example, continues to pose unnecessary risks. Minefields on the island have little military value, but pose a serious threat to life. I urge both sides to take advantage of the dedicated UNMAS demining capacity within UNFICYP in the coming months to rid Cyprus of

minefields across the island. Such clearance would greatly reduce the risk to civilians and allow increased freedom of movement in and around the buffer zone.

43. No serious incidents of violence between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots were reported during the November 2016 demonstrations. At the same time, I note the continued lack of information regarding the judicial processes pertaining to the events of November 2015. A clear resolution of those cases will serve to build confidence between the communities and signal that such acts will not be tolerated in Cyprus.

44. As a fundamental human right, there can be no doubt that freedom of worship across the island is important in and of itself. At the same time, it can also provide a context for enhanced interaction between the communities. I call for all restrictions on freedom of worship, including restrictions on access to religious sites, to be lifted.

45. I note joint efforts by the religious leaders continue to lend much-needed and broad-based support for freedom of worship and the peace. Sustained open dialogue combined with a commitment to freedom of worship by both sides can only serve to open doors for greater understanding and trust.

46. I continue to call upon both communities to exert efforts to create a climate conducive to achieving greater economic and social parity between the two sides and to widen and deepen economic, social, cultural, sporting or similar ties and contacts, including with a view to encouraging trade. Such contacts promote trust between the communities and help to address the Turkish Cypriots' concerns regarding isolation. I urge both leaders to persist in addressing those issues.

47. UNFICYP continues to play an important role in maintaining a calm and secure environment and helping to rebuild trust between the communities. Its ability to do so rests in large part on the commitment of the two sides to refrain from challenging the Force's authority. I urge the sides to formally accept the aide-memoire of 1989, without which there is repeated contestation of the United Nations delineation of the ceasefire lines. In the same vein, I call on both sides to support the Force's role in pre-empting and responding to civilian, law and order and military-related issues and in encouraging intercommunal activities to rebuild trust and cooperation.

48. UNFICYP is devoting increasing resources to deterring unauthorized civilian incursions into the buffer zone. Continued reports of aggression by hunters in the buffer zone against UNFICYP personnel are also of concern. The news that charges have been filed against those involved in the recent firing of weapons in the direction of UNFICYP personnel is welcome. I urge the authorities to ensure legal redress against the perpetrators.

49. As argued in previous reports, closed-circuit television cameras can confer a military advantage and constitute a violation of the status quo if unaccompanied by a reduction in military personnel. At the same time, closed-circuit television can help to monitor illegal activity in the buffer zone and thus contribute to improved security in the area. I therefore encourage steps towards a permanent reduction in the military presence and posture along the ceasefire line, starting in those positions

that have been enhanced with closed-circuit television cameras, particularly in the militarized area, within the Venetian walls of the old town of Nicosia.

50. I welcome the initial steps taken by the sides to engage with UNFICYP and my good offices mission on transition planning, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2300 (2016). The establishment of a dedicated working group under the auspices of UNFICYP to enhance this work, together with inputs from the sides, is timely. Such planning will depend on further progress in the negotiations and on the deliberations of the sides regarding a United Nations support role in a reunified Cyprus. I underline the importance of UNFICYP, and any follow-on mission, being ready to respond to challenges both in the lead-up to and following the referendums. I hope to report back to the Council in due course on further developments on this matter.

51. I recommend that the mandate of the mission be extended for a period of six months, until 31 July 2017. I once again express my gratitude to the 36 countries that have contributed, since 1964, either troops, police or both to the mission. I pay tribute to the 186 peacekeepers who lost their lives over that period in support of peace in Cyprus. It is incumbent upon all parties to work in a determined manner towards a comprehensive settlement, to which all Cypriots aspire and which would obviate, in due course, the continuing need for a United Nations presence.

52. I would like to express my appreciation to Elizabeth Spehar, who began her assignment with UNFICYP on 10 June, for her service as my Special Representative in Cyprus and Head of Mission. As Deputy Special Adviser, Ms. Spehar has been directly supporting the talks in addition to leading the Force's support to my good offices mission during this crucial period.

53. I welcome UNFICYP Force Commander, Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir of Bangladesh, who succeeded Major General Kristin Lund in November.

54. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to my Special Adviser, Espen Barth Eide, for his determined efforts to facilitate the talks between the sides.

55. Finally, I extend my thanks to all the men and women serving in UNFICYP for the efficiency and commitment with which they are discharging the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.

Annex

**Countries providing military and police personnel to the
United Nations operation in Cyprus (as at 15 December 2016)**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Military personnel</i>
Argentina	275
Austria	4
Bangladesh	2
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Chile	14
Hungary	77
Paraguay	14
Serbia	47
Slovakia	169
Ukraine	2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	276
Total	883

<i>Country</i>	<i>Police personnel</i>
Australia	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5
Bulgaria	2
China	6
India	5
Ireland	12
Italy	2
Lithuania	2
Montenegro	4
Romania	4
Russian Federation	3
Serbia	2
Slovakia	5
Ukraine	8
Total	67



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
9 January 2017

Original: English

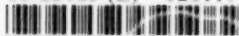
Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia**I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 2275 (2016) and paragraph 44 of Council resolution 2297 (2016). It provides information on the implementation of those resolutions, including on the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and challenges faced by the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) in carrying out its mandate. It covers major developments from 1 September to 31 December 2016.

II. Political and security overview**A. Political developments**

2. The most significant development was progress in the electoral process. Following prolonged negotiations over the details of the electoral model, together with some technical delays, federal parliamentary elections were launched on 15 October. As at 31 December, 43 members of the 54-seat upper house and 258 members of the 275-seat lower house had been elected. The new Federal Parliament was inaugurated on 27 December in a joint session of the two houses. Preparations began thereafter for the election of the Speakers and the country's President.

3. Overall, and notwithstanding delays and cases of malpractice, including bribery and intimidation of delegates, the electoral process was more peaceful and inclusive than in 2012. Disruption by Al-Shabaab did not come to pass, thanks to the effective security arrangements put in place by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali security institutions. The National Leadership Forum, comprising federal and regional leaders, played a key role in dealing with election-related issues, such as endorsing a code of conduct for all parliamentary and presidential candidates and establishing an independent electoral dispute resolution mechanism. Verified cases of electoral malpractice prompted the Forum to order re-runs for five parliamentary seats. In all, close to 13,000 delegates nationwide voted for the members of the lower house, while regional assemblies elected the members of the upper house. As at 31 December, the representation of women stood at 24 per cent in the lower house and 23 per cent in the upper house, a



significant improvement on the previous composition of the Federal Parliament (14 per cent in the lower house), although short of the target of 30 per cent set by the Forum. Of the cost of the electoral process (\$14 million), 60 per cent was covered by international donors, 10 per cent by the Federal Government and 30 per cent by candidate registration fees.

4. The federal state creation process was completed upon the merger of the Hiraan and Shabelle Dhexe regions into the new HirShabelle Interim Administration on 9 October. Jawhar was designated as the capital of the new state; the newly established State Assembly then elected a regional president, vice-president, speaker and deputy speaker. After intense engagement by the Federal Government and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), most clan elders who had earlier opposed the process agreed to join it, with the exception of the leader of the Habar Gidir-Hawadle subclan.

5. On 18 September, after nearly eight months, "Somaliland" concluded a voter registration exercise in preparation for its own parliamentary and presidential elections. Some 850,000 voters were registered, including, for the first time ever, in the disputed territories of Sool, Sanaag and Cayn, notwithstanding the clashes between "Somaliland" and Puntland forces in eastern Sanaag on 18 July that killed five people. Official talks between the two sides led to de-escalation and the successful completion of voter registration. Parliamentary and presidential elections were initially scheduled for 28 March 2017. Nevertheless, the regional President, Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud "Silanyo", issued a decree on 10 September to postpone the parliamentary elections to an unspecified date, giving the main reason as the need to review the allocation of seats in the Awdal, Sool and eastern Sanaag regions. The "Somaliland" authorities have since ignored calls from opposition parties, civil society and the international community to reverse the decision.

6. On 13 September, IGAD held the twenty-eighth extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government in Mogadishu, the first such summit on Somali soil in 42 years. This significant event reflected growing confidence in the country's future.

B. Security developments

7. In Mogadishu, Al-Shabaab stepped up the use of car bombings with the intention of perpetuating a sense of insecurity among the public during the electoral period. On 18 September, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle into a Somali forces convoy, killing a senior commander and seven soldiers. On 1 October, an explosive-laden vehicle detonated outside a restaurant, killing 4 people and injuring 10 others. On 5 November, a suicide bomber drove into a Somali and AMISOM convoy, killing four troops and injuring nine others. On 11 December, a minivan exploded at the port of Mogadishu, killing more than 35 people. Two suicide bombers failed to hit their targets on 10 and 15 December, but their vehicles exploded, killing a National Intelligence and Security Agency officer and injuring 12 other people. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for a mortar attack that caused minor damage to the United Nations common compound on 29 September. Suspected Al-Shabaab operatives gunned down six clan elders and two electoral delegates on 20 October, 2, 6, 9 and 29 November and 11 and 28 December.

8. In central and southern Somalia, Al-Shabaab continued to engage in guerrilla warfare and occasionally deployed fighters to carry out complex attacks. On 16 September, some 150 fighters raided a Somali army base in Ceel Waaq, Gedo region, killing eight soldiers. On 18 October, more than 100 Al-Shabaab fighters attacked multiple government locations in Afgooye, Shabelle Hoose region, killing 14 people, including two senior military officials and the Director General of the Ministry of Finance of the Interim South-West Administration. On 25 October, an explosives-laden truck targeted Djiboutian positions in Beledweyne, Hiraaan region, leaving four people dead and eight injured.

9. Al-Shabaab made some territorial gains following the withdrawal of Ethiopian and Somali forces from Muqakoori, Ceel Cali and Halgen, Hiraaan region, on 15 September and 11 and 23 October. The group also regained control of Tayeeglow, Bakool region, following the withdrawal on 26 October of Ethiopian and Somali troops. Somali forces sought to recover the town on 15 November, but did not succeed. In Bay region, Somali forces twice lost Goof Guduud Shabelow to Al-Shabaab, on 1 and 23 November, but regained control of the town with the support of AMISOM on 7 December.

10. The security situation in Puntland deteriorated following the outbreak on 7 October of armed clashes between forces loyal to Puntland and those loyal to Galmudug in Gaalkacyo. Heavy fighting occurred almost daily until a ceasefire was agreed on 18 November. Sporadic gunfire continued nonetheless, and heavy clashes broke out again on 23 December. The conflict triggered significant population displacement and left more than 74 people dead and 220 injured.

11. On 26 October, between 50 and 100 militiamen belonging to an Al-Shabaab splinter group that declared allegiance to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) seized the coastal town of Qandala, Bari region. Puntland security forces launched coordinated ground, sea and air operations early in November with the support of bilateral partners, but encountered resistance and were forced to retreat. On 3 December, they launched a fresh ground offensive and retook control of the town on 7 December. The media reported more than 30 fatalities among pro-ISIL fighters, while an unspecified number of people retreated to surrounding areas and remain at large.

12. There were some violent incidents relating to the electoral process. In Baidoa, Bay region, militias supporting rival candidates for the lower house clashed on 29 October and 12 November. In Cadaado, Galguduud region, clan tensions escalated around 14 November and resulted in a civilian being shot dead by a Somali soldier. In Garoowe, Puntland, sporadic gunfire was reported during polling sessions on 5 November.

13. On 8 and 9 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security visited Somalia and met the President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the Minister for Internal Security and the Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Agency. He noted some improvement in the general security situation since his previous visit, in August 2014. He reiterated the importance of the host Government in providing security support to United Nations personnel, assets and operations, given the attacks carried out against the United Nations.

III. Support for peacebuilding and state-building efforts

A. International coordination and political support

14. My Special Representative continued to strengthen international efforts aimed at enhancing the country's peacebuilding and state-building process. He regularly met Somali leaders, key international partners, members of the ad hoc electoral bodies and other stakeholders as part of his drive to ensure coherent and effective support for the electoral process. His office issued joint statements with international partners, including to express concern about the nomination of candidates with a known history of violence and alleged criminal involvement and to urge that reports of intimidation and corruption be properly addressed.

15. On 19 and 20 November, my Special Representative and international partners jointly visited Gaalkacyo, Boosaaso, Baidoa, Jawhar and Cadaado, urging the leaders of those regions to expedite the electoral process and honour their commitment to ensuring 30 per cent representation of women.

16. In the wake of the aforementioned intermittent fighting in Gaalkacyo, my Special Representative led a joint mission of the United Nations and international partners to the city on 12 and 15 November. He held consultations with the Federal Prime Minister and the Presidents of Puntland and Galmudug, as well as with key stakeholders from both sides, to listen to their concerns and submit proposals for a lasting peace. On 19 November, at the request of the Federal Government, he deployed two United Nations advisers to the Gaalkacyo Ceasefire Team Advisory Group, which is led by IGAD and mandated to advise on ceasefire monitoring. This development helped to calm tensions.

17. The "Security Six", a forum established by my Special Representative at the request of the Federal Government and aimed at bringing coherence to the work of the principal international stakeholders in the Somali security sector, continued to meet regularly. Comprising the European Union, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the United Nations, the forum has established a secretariat to coordinate the work of its members on the comprehensive approach to security. It has also made progress in reframing the international approach to supporting the country's security as a political rather than purely technical challenge. This progress was evident at a ministerial meeting held on the margins of the United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial: London 2016, held in London in September 2016, at which all members of the forum and AMISOM troop-contributing countries present committed themselves to supporting a security solution that took into account the need for a comprehensive approach to security, recognizing that partners must reenergize efforts to support the emergence of effective security institutions in Somalia.

18. In the context of the comprehensive approach to security, UNSOM brought together key international partners to agree on how to best engage with the African Union to secure mutual commitments for AMISOM operations in 2017. Another point of focus was on how to coordinate support for accelerating the capacity development of the Somali security institutions and developing a common strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism.

B. Inclusive politics

19. The Federal Indirect Electoral Implementation Team and state-level indirect electoral implementation teams continued to oversee the electoral process. They received support from the Integrated Electoral Support Group (comprising UNSOM and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) personnel) in procuring electoral materials and equipment and delivering them to polling sites. In addition, the Group provided capacity-building to the teams in the form of training in candidate registration, polling, vote counting and result tabulation.

20. In line with its mandate to conduct universal elections in 2020, the National Independent Electoral Commission launched technical preparations to begin registering political parties in 2017. Accordingly, the Integrated Electoral Support Group provided technical expertise to enable the operationalization of the political parties legislation, including by sharing good practices and lessons learned from other countries in the region and through the review of relevant legal provisions that require amendment. The Ministry of the Interior and Federal Affairs and the Commission have been reviewing, with the support of the Group, the pre-civil war electoral legal framework with a view to drafting the future electoral law.

21. The electoral model emerged from 18 months of public consultations and political negotiations. Designed with a view to ensuring a peaceful transition of power, it was unique and suited to the country's institutional, political and cultural realities. The electoral process included important electoral features typically associated with a more conventional election, such as codes of conduct, secret ballots and the establishment of ad hoc implementation and dispute resolution bodies. In a sign of progress, it also featured an expanded electorate, the conduct of elections around the country for the first time in almost 50 years and the election of an upper house on the basis of geographical, not simply clan, representation.

22. UNSOM engaged with civil society actors countrywide, including women, to ensure their participation and representation in the electoral process and conducted public outreach campaigns through social media, radio and television. The campaign included the provision of communications support to the Federal Indirect Electoral Implementation Team; the promotion of women's representation; civic education activities to promote the credibility of the process, with extensive use of the mission's social media platforms; capacity-building workshops to prepare Somali journalists to cover the voting process; outreach to international media; and ensuring that the international community spoke with a unified voice on issues and concerns relating to the process.

23. On 21 September, key stakeholders in the political process, including international donors and Somali partners, endorsed a report presented by the United Nations on lessons learned in the constitutional review process since 2012. Among other things, the United Nations took stock of the main achievements and shortcomings of the 2012-2016 review process. UNSOM, United Nations agencies and international partners subsequently agreed on priorities for the next cycle of review of the Provisional Federal Constitution, which offers a historic opportunity to shape the legal architecture of a federal Somalia. Following the electoral process, UNSOM has identified the constitutional review as a priority for the country's transition to a constitutional democracy.

24. UNSOM held extensive meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and with traditional elders from the Hiraan and Shabelle Dhexe regions in order to advance the state formation process. UNSOM also engaged with clan elders from the Banadir region to hear their concerns about the final status of Mogadishu and their representation in the electoral process and in political institutions, especially the two houses of the Federal Parliament.

C. Rule of law and security institutions

25. The federal security architecture will be discussed by the Federal Government and representatives of the existing and emerging federal member states at a workshop to be convened by the United Kingdom and the United States in January. The objective is to reach a final agreement on the federal security structure at the London Conference on Somalia, currently scheduled to be held in May 2017.

26. Delays in regular salary payments to Somali security personnel remain a key concern and a major incentive for personnel to desert or, worse, defect. Salary arrears are currently estimated at between 6 and 13 months for soldiers and 15 months for police officers. Donor-funded stipends, however, are paid regularly to the national army, the federal police and 1,000 regional police officers in Baidoa and Kismaayo.

27. The Federal Government reached an agreement with the Puntland authorities on the integration of 3,000 Puntland militiamen into the national army on 1 August. A mechanism for funding the delivery of a non-lethal support package to those troops by the United Nations Office for Project Services will need to be put in place before the Office can conduct an initial project assessment.

28. UNSOM and UNDP continued to support the implementation of the new federated policing model that was endorsed by the National Leadership Forum in June. While there is strong commitment on the part of the existing and emerging federal member states to developing a decentralized policing model, the momentum that existed at the federal level stalled during the second half of 2016. International advocacy and support will be provided to the incoming Federal Government to promote the implementation of the model and to reinvigorate commitment.

29. The Interim Jubba Administration is authorizing explosive ordnance disposal capacity training for selected members of its police service, with assistance from the Mine Action Service and UNSOM. The initiative supports the comprehensive approach to security, in line with the new policing model. A total of \$2 million was received from Germany for a non-lethal support package for the Somali police. An amount of \$1 million has been assigned to the technical committees for the implementation of the new policing model in each state. The remaining \$1 million will be used to build a police training facility in Kismaayo; the land has been secured and it is expected that construction will begin early in 2017.

30. Discussions continued among Somali stakeholders at the federal and state levels on the design of an effective and affordable justice and corrections system, including at a technical workshop in December, supported by the United Nations. Steps were also taken to strengthen the delivery of justice services and expand access to justice. A legal clinic, intended for vulnerable groups, especially women

and internally displaced persons, was established at Mogadishu University, and plans are under way to deploy legal aid providers in southern and central Somalia, and for the first time to Baidoa and Kismaayo. The participants in a workshop on justice priorities, held in November, agreed that the Somalia Joint Rule of Law Programme would accord priority to institutional support and access to justice at the subfederal level, as well as to the finalization and implementation of the justice and corrections model, in 2017.

31. As part of the effort by the Custodial Corps to ensure security nationwide, UNSOM provided support for prison incident management training to more than 200 regional prison officers. In a related development, the Baidoa prison pilot rehabilitation project for high-risk Al-Shabaab prisoners concluded on 31 December. It had been intended to collect data on the prisoners and to design and implement a rehabilitation programme. The results and lessons learned will support the development of the second phase, which will be focused on the rehabilitation and reintegration of Al-Shabaab inmates.

32. Efforts continued to reintegrate former Al-Shabaab combatants. A fourth rehabilitation facility for low-risk disengaged combatants, located in Kismaayo and funded by Germany, is scheduled to be operational by the first quarter of 2017. Meanwhile, the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre is partnering with UNSOM on reintegration projects for disengaged Al-Shabaab combatants in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismaayo and Beledweyne. This eight-month programme, which began in September, is expected to be completed by April 2017. The programme provides employment opportunities for 500 disengaged combatants and 500 vulnerable community members and is supported by a public information campaign. The projects include the expansion of four transition centres and the rehabilitation of a school, hospital, court and prison in each location. UNSOM also supported the National Intelligence and Security Agency in developing draft standard operating procedures and criteria for the uniform screening and profiling of disengaged Al-Shabaab combatants.

33. As part of its evolving counter-terrorism platform, the Federal Government announced its national strategy and action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism in September. Identified therein are key areas for development, with a focus on ensuring an inclusive process, involving Somali civil society, youth and women's groups, religious leaders and the private sector. Since the launch, the Federal Government has aimed to further devolve the strategy for implementation by the countering violent extremism coordinators at the subfederal level. On 1 December, Puntland held a stakeholder consultation meeting, which UNSOM attended. UNSOM is developing a separate strand on countering and preventing violent extremism in the comprehensive approach to security to ensure a coordinated and inclusive approach among all stakeholders. This will be done in close cooperation with the Federal Government and existing and emerging federal member states, as endorsed by the Federal Government's countering violent extremism coordinator on 21 November.

D. Economic foundations

34. The gross domestic product (GDP) was projected to reach \$6.2 billion at the end of 2016 and GDP per capita \$450. Consumption remains the key driver, with investment accounting for 8 per cent of GDP in 2016. The economy is highly dependent on imports, with the share of exports to GDP currently at 14 per cent. Imports account for more than two thirds of GDP, creating a large trade deficit, mainly financed by remittances and international aid.

35. According to the latest World Bank poverty survey, about half of the country's population (51.6 per cent) is currently living below the poverty line. Remittances remain a key safety net; of every three people who receive remittances, one is poor. Inequality remains high and driven by the gaps in urban poverty incidence.

36. In the light of the expiration of the Somali Compact, Somalia finalized its first national development plan in more than 30 years. The plan, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the interim poverty reduction strategy policy, provides the country with full ownership of its development agenda. While it will need to be revalidated by the new Federal Government, the plan provides the basis for addressing key development priorities, especially infrastructure, the provision of social services and overall poverty reduction. A new mutual accountability framework between Somalia and the international community is under development and expected to be signed at a high-level partnership forum to be held in London during the first half of 2017, thereby aligning international support with national development priorities.

E. Revenue and services

37. The fiscal situation is improving. Nevertheless, there is a need to mobilize greater domestic revenue. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), real GDP growth for 2016, projected at 3.7 per cent, is driven by the telecommunications, construction and service sectors. Consumer price inflation is projected to remain low, at about 1.0 to 1.5 per cent, mainly reflecting weak commodity prices. For 2017, growth is projected to decelerate to about 2.5 per cent, owing to the impact of poor rains on the agricultural sector. The national budget is only \$240 million. Poor tax collection capacity, a narrow tax base, the absence of legal and regulatory frameworks and a lack of territorial control continue to hinder full revenue mobilization.

38. Notwithstanding the progress made in meeting IMF structural benchmarks, Somalia continues to struggle to respond to basic fiscal challenges. An IMF mission in November concluded that the country had met all structural benchmarks and six out of seven quantitative performance targets for the first review of the staff-monitored programme. Nevertheless, the benchmark on non-accrual of new arrears had not been met. It is expected that the staff report for the article IV consultation held in 2016 and the first review under the staff-monitored programme will be discussed by the IMF Executive Board in late January 2017.

39. The country's capacity to deliver services remains limited and largely dependent on assistance from the international community, especially in terms of

health, education, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene. While Somalia ranks among the world's worst cases of malnutrition, progress is being achieved. A national survey conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Ministry of Health in 2016 showed a rise to a 33 per cent in the rate of exclusive breastfeeding and to 83 per cent in the number of newborn children being breastfed within the first hour of birth. Social and human development will be key priorities for Somalia to address through its national development plan, to which the international community has committed itself to aligning future support.

F. Cross-cutting issues

Community recovery and local governance

40. The Ministry of the Interior and Federal Affairs, alongside its regional counterparts, continued to promote the Wadajir National Framework for Local Governance, which is focused on enabling community reconciliation to build stability. The United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery continued to provide support for the formation of district councils aimed at strengthening local governance and improving service delivery. On 17 November, the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility endorsed two programmes supported by an amount of \$12 million from the Peacebuilding Fund. The two programmes are designed to enhance community recovery and the extension of state authority, as well as to catalyse stronger local governance in line with the Wadajir Framework, with a focus on Jubaland and South-West. One programme will support efforts around a comprehensive response to drivers of fragility and the other the provision of durable solutions for internally displaced persons, returnees, host communities and authorities.

41. Community recovery projects continued to receive support from donors and the United Nations in Hiraan, Shabelle Dhexe, Galmudug, South-West and Jubaland. The United States Agency for International Development supported state authorities and communities in planning projects to promote economic growth and support social cohesion in Kismaayo, Afmadow, Wanlaweyn, Diinsoor, Baraawe and Baardheere. The Somalia Stability Fund continued to support similar efforts in Warshiikh, Mahadday Weyn, Cadale, Cadaado, Balanbaley and Hobyo. Following an evaluation in September of its vocational training programme designed to help to counter violent extremism among young people, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization is expanding the approach to Dhoolbe, Mogadishu, Kismaayo and Baidoa.

Human rights

42. The number of human rights violations increased during the reporting period, primarily owing to state security operations and continued Al-Shabaab activity. Reported civilian casualties totalled 623, comprising 260 deaths and 363 injuries. Security operations generated 242 civilian casualties, of which 55 deaths and 120 injuries were attributed to the Somali security forces and 37 deaths and 12 injuries to AMISOM. UNSOM continued to engage with AMISOM on reported allegations of violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including the incident of

17 July that left 14 civilians dead and 3 others injured in Wardinle, near Baidoa, which was attributed to AMISOM (Ethiopian) troops. AMISOM is finalizing its investigation.

43. The conflict in Gaalkacyo represented 53 per cent of the total civilian casualties attributed to the Somali security forces and resulted in 25 civilians being killed and 63 injured by crossfire between Puntland and Galmudug forces. Since September, six death sentences have been pronounced in Somalia, and two have been carried out.

44. Civilian casualties attributed to Al-Shabaab or unidentified persons totalled 91 deaths and 126 injuries. A total of 46 people were abducted by Al-Shabaab, 35 of whom were later released. The attacks represent an increase of 1.4 per cent from the previous reporting period.

45. In September, UNSOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights jointly released the first public United Nations report on the right to freedom of expression in Somalia, covering the period between 2012 and 2016. Recommended therein are measures towards increasing protection, enhancing accountability and addressing impunity. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion pledged that the Federal Government would address violations against the media. On 5 September, the Media Association of Puntland issued a press statement in which it commended the report and urged stakeholders to abide by the recommendations made. On 8 September in "Somaliland", the "Somaliland" Minister of Presidential Affairs accused the independent media of destabilizing "Somaliland" security, labelling it an "armed militia that requires disarmament". Media associations and human rights organizations called for the Minister to refrain from making such threats.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

46. In September, the National Leadership Forum reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that 30 per cent of parliamentary seats would be held by women, giving clear guidance in a communiqué on how the goal should be realized. The implementation of the decision proved to be a challenge, however. Nevertheless, intense advocacy efforts carried out by women leaders, candidates, goodwill ambassadors, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development and international partners yielded positive results, with the attainment of greater representation of women in the lower house of the Federal Parliament (24 per cent) than in 2012 (14 per cent).

47. During the electoral process, female candidates and advocates faced threats and intimidation. They also cited corruption as an issue negatively affecting the ability of women to stage successful candidacies. To address this issue, UNSOM and UNDP increased their logistical support to women candidates and advocates and coordinated with civil society organizations, goodwill ambassadors and the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development. The United Nations also assisted the Ministry with the deployment of situation room teams in seven electoral locations. This enabled women leaders to effectively mobilize and overcome many of the challenges that they faced.

Child protection

48. The country task force on monitoring and reporting recorded 477 incidents of grave violations against children during the reporting period, affecting 854 children (157 girls and 697 boys). In addition, 46 incidents of unlawful detention involving 92 children on security grounds and for alleged association with Al-Shabaab were documented.

49. A joint age assessment exercise by the Puntland authorities and the United Nations confirmed that 64 of the Al-Shabaab elements captured in Puntland in March were below 18 years of age. On 17 September, 28 of the children, from 15 to 17 years of age, were sentenced to between 10 and 20 years' imprisonment by a military court in Garoowe. Following intensive advocacy by the United Nations and bilateral partners, the Puntland authorities agreed to release 26 other children, between 12 and 14 years of age. They were handed over to the United Nations on 5 October to begin their reintegration. UNSOM and the United Nations Children's Fund continued to work closely with the Puntland authorities to ensure that the death sentences handed down on 16 June against 12 of the children and the lengthy prison sentences against 28 others are revoked. Currently, 272 boys and 55 girls are benefiting from reintegration programmes in Baidoa and Mogadishu, including the 26 children airlifted from Puntland in October 2016.

Prevention of sexual violence

50. UNSOM has been supporting the creation of women and child protection units in the Somali police force as part of an effort to enhance the response of law enforcement bodies to cases of sexual violence and to better protect victims and survivors. Specific steps have been taken since December 2015, including the adoption of terms of reference for the units on 3 September, following extensive consultations among key stakeholders, including the United Nations, AMISOM, the Federal Government and international donors.

51. In September, the United Nations Population Fund conducted a training session in Mogadishu on the prevention of gender-based violence, with 25 police officers from various regions participating. This resulted in increased police engagement with service providers and other stakeholders on gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response.

Targeted sanctions

52. On 3 October, my Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea on the report submitted pursuant to paragraph 24 of Council resolution 2244 (2015) (S/2016/827). The Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea presented its final report on Somalia (S/2016/919) to the Committee on 7 October. The Federal Government submitted its second report pursuant to paragraph 7 of Council resolution 2244 (2015) to the Council on 15 October. On 10 November, the Council adopted resolution 2317 (2016), by which it renewed, until 15 November 2017, the partial lifting of the arms embargo on Somalia. On 15 December, seven experts were appointed to serve on the Monitoring Group until 15 December 2017 (see S/2016/1065).

IV. Humanitarian situation

53. The humanitarian situation deteriorated during the reporting period and is set to worsen as drought conditions extend beyond Puntland and "Somaliland" to areas in the south, such as Gedo and Juba Hoose. A continued lack of social safety nets and basic services increases the country's vulnerability and the potential for a broader crisis. The situation is expected to worsen because the current *deyr* rainy season has not yielded the expected level of rainfall.

54. The assessments carried out by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit of the post-*gu* rain were delivered in September and showed that two worrying thresholds had been surpassed. There are now 5 million Somalis facing acute food shortages, of whom more than 1.1 million are in emergency and crisis situations. The nutrition situation has also deteriorated, with more than 320,000 acutely malnourished children in need of urgent nutrition support, including more than 50,000 who are severely malnourished.

55. The growing humanitarian needs come as resources are dwindling. The perception that Somalia is on the rise, coupled with competition from other global crises, has led to diminished humanitarian funding. As at early December, the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2016, launched in January, was funded at just in excess of 47 per cent, or \$414 million of the \$885 million required. Owing to the limited resources, livelihood and resilience programmes had to be deprioritized in favour of life-saving programmes.

56. Besides drought, Somalia has seen a sharp increase in conflict-related displacement, raising protection concerns for those affected, in particular women and children. The most serious concerns emerged in Gaalkacyo, where 90,000 civilians were displaced by conflict in October, resulting in a lack of schooling for 20,000 children. The withdrawal of foreign military assets in the Bakool, Galmudug and Hiraa regions displaced at least 5,000 people and exposed those who remained to retribution at the hands of Al-Shabaab and reduced humanitarian access. Clan conflict with Al-Shabaab in eastern Shabelle Hoose displaced nearly 30,000 people and had a negative impact on access.

57. On 6 November 2016, the Interim Jubba Administration officially lifted its temporary suspension of the voluntary return of Somali refugees from the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. This came after a series of consultative meetings among parties to the tripartite agreement governing the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees living in Kenya. Nearly 35,000 Somalis have returned voluntarily since December 2014 under the agreement. Partners continued to provide life-saving and reintegration assistance, the limited resources notwithstanding.

58. In October, an estimated 543,900 people received food assistance, while 1.7 million received seasonal agriculture inputs, including seeds, tools, fishing equipment, irrigation vouchers, livestock and vaccinations for livestock. Some 43,300 malnourished children under 5 years of age were admitted into nutrition programmes and more than 700,000 Somalis received basic health services, while in excess of 1 million people were provided with temporary and/or sustainable access to safe water. Nearly 312,100 people accessed protection services, while education partners reached some 90,000 learners with teaching activities and school feeding

programmes. An estimated 98,100 people were assisted with non-food items and 12,300 with transitional shelter.

V. Support to the African Union Mission in Somalia, the Somali national army and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

59. UNSOS continued to provide logistical support to AMISOM and the Somali national armed forces in support of military operations and in accordance with Security Council resolution 2245 (2015). In support of the electoral process, coordination between UNSOS and AMISOM at the strategic and operational levels ensured the provision of adequate security and logistical support at all polling stations. Of key significance is the case of Cadaado, Galmudug, where, before the elections, AMISOM had had no presence but, through effective coordination mechanisms, it was able to deploy swiftly and receive UNSOS logistical support on a self-sustainment basis.

60. A letter of assist with Kenya for the deployment of three military helicopters to AMISOM was finalized in November, with the helicopters deployed on 15 December. Discussions continued with Uganda and Ethiopia to facilitate the deployment of additional helicopters. There is, however, a need for Member States to support AMISOM with the reimbursement of ammunition, given that this is not covered by the United Nations.

61. Somali troops continued to receive UNSOS logistical support under an UNSOS-managed trust fund. The planned assessment of the capability and combat readiness of the national armed forces to carry out joint operations with AMISOM, scheduled for September, was not conducted because securing the electoral process had to take priority. The assessment will be carried out immediately after the installation of the new Federal Government.

62. The Mine Action Service continued to provide technical support and training in improvised explosive device detection and destruction as part of its efforts to enhance AMISOM operational mobility. Through a United Nations/AMISOM working group on improvised explosive devices, which was established in September, a "defeat-the-device" training plan was launched under the guidance of the Service. It comprises mitigation measures, specifically awareness, increased search capacity, technical operational equipment, threat/route assessments and proactive analysis. The combined efforts of the training partners, through the AMISOM force headquarters, resulted in AMISOM finding an increased number of improvised explosive devices before they could detonate, as manifested by the Ugandan military locating and disposing of 16 devices on sector 1 main supply routes in October.

63. Efforts are under way to enhance security on the main supply routes in order to encourage trade and the movement of people, facilitate humanitarian access and ultimately contribute to the expansion of governance and state authority in areas liberated by AMISOM. Discussions with UNSOS led to AMISOM committing itself to incrementally providing force protection for road convoys, thereby drastically reducing the current overreliance on airlifts for logistical support.

64. The parlous state of the trust funds for AMISOM and the national army is of grave concern. As at the end of November, the balance of the former was \$400,000 and the latter \$13.65 million. Additional contributions from partners are critical to enabling AMISOM to achieve its mandate and ensuring a smooth transfer of security responsibilities to the Somali security forces.

65. My newly appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNSOS, Hubert Price, assumed office in October. He visited Addis Ababa on 18 and 19 October and met representatives of the African Union, AMISOM troop- and police-contributing countries, AMISOM partners and the United Nations Office to the African Union. He outlined his agenda, which includes improving strategic engagement, coordination and communication with key stakeholders and enhancing the operational effectiveness of UNSOS.

66. On 11 November, the Military Operations Coordination Committee met for the twenty-first time, in Addis Ababa, to review operational progress in support of the electoral process and to consider options for strengthening the operational effectiveness of AMISOM to conduct future offensive operations. The Committee requested support for additional troops to conduct offensive operations, together with additional support for the Somali army in order to accelerate the planned AMISOM exit strategy. The Committee urged the United Nations and partners to facilitate the deployment of critical enablers and force multipliers, including capability to counter improvised explosive devices in support of AMISOM operations. It rejected the decision by the European Union to differentiate its payment procedure to the Burundian contingent in Somalia and expressed concern about the reduction by the European Union of the AMISOM troop allowance by 20 per cent. The Committee requested the United Nations, the European Union and the broader international community to urgently find ways of bridging the gap.

Human rights due diligence policy

67. On 27 September, the AMISOM/United Nations working group met in Mogadishu to discuss the implementation of mitigation measures under the human rights due diligence policy, including status and accountability with regard to human rights violations and how to strengthen the Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell. While marked progress was noted on formal responses from AMISOM to allegations, the need to implement mitigation measures, accountability and remedies for victims was emphasized. AMISOM announced the adoption of a force commander's directive and the launch of monthly briefings for commanders on compliance with international humanitarian law. On 13 October, the human rights due diligence policy risk assessments for the Ethiopian contingent, the Kenyan contingent and the Jubaland security forces were approved by the policy task force following an African Union request for non-lethal support to enable these forces to conduct joint offensive operations with AMISOM. The task force approved the risk assessment for the provision of attack helicopters to AMISOM on 23 November.

68. UNSOS supported AMISOM with the organization of a two-day workshop in October to develop standard operating procedures for the Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell. The development of the standard operating procedures provides AMISOM with additional tools for tracking and reporting on

civilians affected in the course of operations and makes it more compliant with the human rights due diligence policy, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2124 (2013).

VI. United Nations presence

69. The security risk level for the area protected by AMISOM at Mogadishu International Airport has remained high since the previous assessment, in May 2016. UNSOS continued to implement recommended risk mitigation measures to improve the safety and protection of all United Nations personnel. Similar projects are continuing in the United Nations regional compounds.

70. Following the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack on 26 July near Mogadishu International Airport, UNDP relocated national staff from the United Nations common compound to the airport. More than 300 United Nations national staff experience daily difficulties in gaining access to the airport owing to additional restrictions and challenges at the gate, thus exposing them to multiple security threats. To mitigate the threat, the pedestrian entry point will be redesigned.

71. The security situation in Gaalkacyo continued to be marred by sporadic shooting, which had an impact on United Nations activities. The Federal Government was reminded that it bore primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, assets and operations. It was also encouraged to constantly share information and coordinate with United Nations security officials in order to create safe and secure conditions for personnel and activities.

72. An increasing number of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes operate and maintain a permanent presence of both international and national staff outside Mogadishu. Insecurity remains the biggest impediment to operations. The restricted access to some areas poses a challenge to the Organization's ability to respond to humanitarian and development needs.

VII. Observations

73. With the inauguration of the new Federal Parliament, Somalia has taken a major step in its continuing transformation into a functioning federal State.

74. I commend the outgoing parliamentarians for their service and their role in passing significant legislation. I congratulate the newly elected parliamentarians and urge them to discharge their duties with the well-being of the people of Somalia at heart. I urge the new Federal Parliament to proceed as swiftly as possible with the election of the Speakers of the two houses, followed by that of the President.

75. The relatively peaceful electoral process attests to a gradual change in the country's political culture, with a move towards non-violent political competition. The process faced many challenges, however, including the decision to conduct electoral re-runs for five seats following allegations of misconduct. Unfortunately, not all reported cases of misconduct were adequately addressed, including the protection of seats reserved for women. Moving towards universal suffrage in 2020, lessons must be drawn from the process. Practical measures should be put in place

to minimize electoral manipulation, the intimidation of candidates and corruption, including cash for votes and misuse of public resources. The legal framework and electoral institutions need to be put in place well ahead of the elections to be held in 2020, accompanied by extensive civic and voter education.

76. While the Somali leaders' target of having women hold 30 per cent of seats was not achieved, the representation of women has increased by 70 per cent since 2012. A transformation has thus taken place of the political representation and participation of women in Somalia, and an important precedent has been set for the political mobilization of women.

77. I welcome the completion of the federal map of Somalia with the creation of the HirShabelle Interim Administration. The challenges experienced underscore the importance of inclusivity in any state formation process. The sustainable completion of the process will require the resolution of the final status of Mogadishu and endemic conflicts, such as those affecting Gaalkacyo, Sool and Sanaag and pockets of Shabelle Hoose. The conflicts continue to challenge the prospects for long-term stability and could create openings for Al-Shabaab to exploit. I urge all existing and emerging federal member states to continue to reach out to their communities in a sustained process of reconciliation.

78. Anchoring the country's emerging political structures on a solid rule of law framework will be among the strongest guarantors of long-term stability and durable governance reform. I therefore call upon the relevant stakeholders to carefully design the next constitutional review phase in a manner that is fully inclusive of regional actors. The international community's sustained engagement and financial assistance remains vital to the early adoption of a permanent constitution. I urge the Federal Government and the existing and emerging federal member states to ensure an effective constitutional review process by building consensus through broad-based consultations at multiple levels of society.

79. The work of AMISOM continues to be a vital enabler of progress in peacebuilding and state-building. The sacrifices that AMISOM troops are making are not in vain. They go far in contributing to lasting peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa. I urge the Federal Government and the federal member states to accord the highest priority to security in 2017, in particular to supporting the establishment of security institutions that can effectively tackle current security threats, including Al-Shabaab, and that are accountable to civilian command and operate with respect for human rights.

80. The decision of the Government of Kenya to deploy three helicopters in support of AMISOM operations is welcome. I urge other potential contributors, especially the Governments of Ethiopia and Uganda, to accelerate discussions with the United Nations to provide AMISOM with the full complement of its air asset requirements.

81. I applaud the finalization of the country's first national development plan in more than 30 years. It is testament to the progress made in the realm of politics and security. I am encouraged by efforts to promote accountable governance and community recovery. This has taken place through the Government's Wadajir Framework, which is underpinned by the United Nations community recovery and extension of state authority/accountability approach. It is important to maintain such

progress and ensure that legitimate systems for local government administration and management are implemented across all districts.

82. To sustain recent political and security gains, I encourage international partners to continue to ensure that coherent and long-term support is provided to build the capacity of Somali institutions to deliver good governance and community-led recovery initiatives. To this end, I welcome the decision of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility to endorse the priority plan for Somalia supported by the Peacebuilding Fund.

83. The human rights situation remains a source of concern, in particular the execution of civilians by Al-Shabaab after the withdrawal of AMISOM and national forces from areas in the Hiraan and Bakool regions. Since September, 18 people have been executed and 40 abducted on suspicion of collaborating with government security forces.

84. While the reintegration of 26 children detained on account of their association with Al-Shabaab is a positive development, I am concerned that little progress has been made to commute the death sentences of 10 of the young people who remain in custody in Boosaaso. Thirteen children now face capital punishment in Puntland. Death sentences issued against children under 18 years of age are contrary to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Federal Government ratified in 2015. I urge the Puntland authorities to follow through on the commitments made to commute those sentences.

85. I am extremely concerned about the worsening humanitarian situation, which is expected to deteriorate further in the coming months following the rainy season, which is expected to be poor. The impact of severe drought and demand for humanitarian resources have been exacerbated by emerging crises, including an increase in conflict-related displacement. While scaled-up humanitarian assistance is urgently required to prevent further decline, the United Nations-led durable solutions initiative provides a viable road map towards addressing the long-term humanitarian situation, alongside the need for a comprehensive drive towards food security and increased food production. It is essential that arrangements put in place to respond to drought-related humanitarian needs be effective, drawing upon the lessons learned from the response in 2011.

86. I thank the African Union, AMISOM, IGAD, the European Union, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other development partners for their continued support for the peacebuilding and state-building process. There remains much to do in the period until 2020, during which time the partnership must be sustained. Efforts must continue to create an opportunity for Somalia to attract more international investors.

87. Looking ahead to the coming four years, the Federal Government and the international community will need to work in concert on a wide range of priorities, including the finalization of the Federal Constitution, comprehensive security sector reform, agreement on the sharing of power, revenue and resources between the federal and regional levels, and sustained support for local conflict resolution and reconciliation. Consolidating gains in these areas will require placing Somalia on to a trajectory of sustainable economic recovery and growth. In this vein, further support will also be required to ensure that the Federal Government is able to attract

private and public international investment, including through debt relief, and address corruption and strengthen accountability.

88. I pay tribute to my Special Representative, Michael Keating, my two Deputy Special Representatives and the staff of UNSOM, the Head of UNSOS and his staff and also the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Somalia for their continued hard work under challenging conditions. I assure them that their commitment and sacrifices are not in vain.

Annex

Results of the electoral process for the lower house of the Federal Parliament in 2016

Region	Seats	Parliamentarians elected to date	Parliamentarians elected to date who are women		Remaining seats to be filled (including through re-run elections)
			Number	Percentage	
Jubaland	43	42	10	24	1
South-West	69	68	14	21	1
Galmudug	36	35	9	26	1
Puntland	37	36	7	19	1
Banadir	6	4	1	25	2
"Somaliland"	46	36	12	33	10
HirShabelle	38	37	10	27	1
Total	275	258	63	24	17

